



EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Recovery Act Workers Remediate and Restore Former Waste Sites, Help Reduce Cold War Footprint

RICHLAND, Wash. – The Hanford Site is looking greener these days after American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers revegetated 166 acres across 12 waste sites, planting over 1,100 pounds of seeds and about 280,000 pounds of mulch.

The largest of the sites, known as the BC Control Area, is an approximately 13-square-mile area associated with a waste disposal system used during Hanford operations. Recovery Act workers remediated and reseeded a densely contaminated 140-acre portion of that area after disposing of more than 370,000 tons of contaminated soil.

Recovery Act workers employed by DOE contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company have remediated 61 waste sites, surpassing the contractor's Recovery Act target to remediate 47 waste sites near Hanford's Central Plateau and along the Columbia River by the end of September 2011.

Cleanup of the Hanford waste sites is helping the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) Recovery Act Program reach its goal to reduce EM's 931-square-mile footprint by 40 percent by September 2011. EM is ahead of schedule to meet that goal. As of March 2011, EM achieved a total footprint reduction of 34 percent, or 312 square miles.

Hanford's Richland Operations Office received \$1.6 billion from the Recovery Act. The funding has allowed contractors to employ innovative technologies, such as aerial surveys, super dump trucks and mobile survey vehicles to increase the efficiency of cleanup. At the BC Control Area, contractors saved time and reduced the need for workers to walk the remediated areas to check for radiological contamination through the use of these technologies.

A video of the revegetation is available at the DOE-Richland Operations YouTube site at www.youtube.com/HanfordSite.



Left Photo: Recovery Act workers with CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company and sub-contractors Wildlands Inc. and Ojeda Business Ventures LLC spray seeds across 140 acres of the BC Control Area waste site. In all, they planted about 1,000 pounds of seeds and about 280,000 pounds of mulch.

Center Photo: Recovery Act workers with CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company and sub-contractors Wildlands Inc. and Ojeda Business Ventures LLC revegetated 166 acres across 12 former waste sites.

Right Photo: A mobile survey vehicle was used to streamline the surveying process. Workers used the vehicle to traverse remediated areas to survey for radiological contamination, which took less time than walking in the field carrying tools typically used to verify cleanup efforts.

**For More Information on
EM Recovery Act Work, Visit Us on the Web:**

<http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery/>



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